



Parent Council

AHS Parent Council Meeting Note

**Tuesday 28 November 2023
6.00pm**

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| Parent Members: | Fiona Nicholson (Chair), Carrie McDonald (Vice Chair), Kenny Pottinger, Marianne Clark, Ayesha Huda, Jerry Edwards, Anna Moar, Gowri Saravanan, Susan Williamson |
| In Attendance: | Robin Calder (Head Teacher – AHS), Dawn Ratter (Clerk/Treasurer), Patrick Robertson (Depute Head), Marnie Harpe (Principal Teacher Support for Learning), Michael Manson (Principal Teacher Pupil Support), Kerri Redfern (Principal Teacher Pupil Support), Samantha Flaws (Executive Manager – Quality Improvement), James Johnston (Quality Improvement Officer), Amy Sandison (Teacher Representative), Cameron Mackenzie (Teacher Representative), Cllr Neil Pearson |
| Apologies: | Amanda Hawick, Anna Sutherland, Annie Ko, Nick McCaffrey, Cllr Gary Robinson, Cllr John Fraser |

| Agenda No | Information / Action |
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| 1 | Welcome The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting. |
| 2 | Open discussion on the issues faced by young people as recently highlighted in local press and proactive steps to support young people, families, the school and wider community Mr Calder shared a paper (attached) with everyone present which sets out the schools position on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Addressing bullying issues- Key policies- How the school supports young people experiencing bullying behaviour- How the school are dealing with bullying behaviour- Concerns around possession of knives in school- Substance use in school and on campus- Strategies for supporting young people- Ideas and next steps for moving forward |

Mr James Johnston, Quality Improvement Officer presented on 'Anti-Bullying in Shetland Schools' (attached).

- Shetland Islands Council policy on Anti-bullying is very much in line with the national approach – Respect for All ([Home - respectme](#))
- The policy was implemented in 2018 and recently reviewed
- A school leaver satisfaction survey has recently been initiated

There was some very positive discussions during the meeting:

- Kerri Redfern, Principal Teacher of Pupil Support is leading on the 'See Me See Change programme' which with support from the local authority. 'See Me See Change' is an approach to tackling mental health stigma and discrimination in schools. The programme is being delivered over the academic year, and is looking for volunteers from staff and senior phase pupils who have an active interest in mental health.
- Marnie Harpe, Principal Teacher of Support for Learning provided information to parents on how the Social, Emotional and Behavioural (SEB) team support young people who may not be managing in school. Bullying behaviour can often be a communication that the young person is in distress. The support provided through SEB is often a very layered process of establishing the root cause which can often stem from complex circumstances out with school. She explained the different approaches that may be taken to support young people and alternative programmes with partner agencies that may be used. Support can often be very complex because the need is complex. It is really important to stress that while the school are supporting the pupil who is displaying bullying behaviours, they are also very committed to support the pupil who is experiencing the bullying.
- Children and Young people are encouraged to come forward with any concerns regarding bullying behaviour; this can be to any member of staff in the school that they feel comfortable speaking to. The school are looking at new ways of addressing challenges and barriers to reporting incidents. There was some discussion on establishing a process for pupils to be able to report incidents anonymously, e.g. through a QR code system.

Next Steps

- The parent council will work with the school on developing a collaborative plan to address issues around bullying, children's health and wellbeing and safety in the school.
- The school will consider a refresh of information shared with parents/carers on appropriate policies, ensuring these are accessible for all, with a focus on new parents/carers to the school, particularly around transition times.
- The school will be looking to gather the views of all children and young people, anonymously, through an online survey, seeking their thoughts and view on the school in general. More specifically, asking them how safe they feel in school, how

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| | <p>confident they are in reporting concerns about bullying, and their suggestions for additional ways of reporting bullying, behavioural issues or any substance related incidents or issues.</p> |
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| | <p>Fiona thanked parents and staff for taking the time to attend the meeting and she looks forward to working closely with the school and local authority to create an action plan and establish ways to move forward as a school community.</p> |
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DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 01 February 2024 at 6.00pm

APPROVED